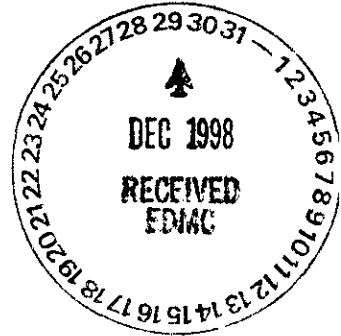




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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10 HANFORD PROJECT OFFICE  
712 SWIFT BOULEVARD, SUITE 5  
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON 99352  
December 14, 1998

Mary Lou Blazek  
Oregon Office of Energy  
625 Marion Street NE, Suite 1  
Salem, Oregon 97301-3742



Re: Responses to Comments on the 100 Area Remaining Sites Proposed Plan

Dear Ms. Blazek:

Thank you for commenting on the 100 Area Remaining Sites proposed cleanup plan. We appreciate the Oregon Office of Energy's support of our preferred alternative.

You raise three concerns in your letter dated November 25, 1998. The first concern is in regards to how a site is evaluated in the plug-in approach. The 161 sites proposed have been screened and initial information indicate that they do meet the criteria outlined in the proposed plan for remove, treat, and dispose. If during detailed design or during actual cleanup any sites are found to be outside the remove, treat, dispose alternative an explanation of significant difference or a ROD amendment would be required and would include public review. The parties will elaborate on the site suitability criteria for remove, treat, dispose in the record of decision and subsequent design documents.

A question is raised as to whether the fill material will increase the rate at which recharge will occur. The majority of the backfill material is located in the 100 Area in the general vicinity of the reactor areas. The fill material has similar geo-physical characteristics as the waste material being removed. In addition, all waste sites will be revegetated and this will reduce the rate of infiltration.

Your third concern is in regards to waste storage. It is the intent of the parties not to store this waste, however, if storage is required it will either occur at the waste site, in the Central Waste Complex or other appropriate storage location. Details on any waste storage options will be outlined in the record of decision and discussed further in the design report. Please contact me at (509) 376-8631 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Dennis A. Faulk  
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Glenn Goldberg, DOE  
Wayne Soper, Ecology  
Administrative Record (100 Area General)